

Glossary of Terms

Tone:

Irony:

Irony is the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite; a statement or situation where the meaning is contradicted by the appearance or presentation of the idea, typically for humorous or emphatic effect.

Example:

An ambulance driver goes to a nighttime bike accident scene and runs over the accident victim because the victim has crawled to the center of the road with their bike.

Tricolon:

A tricolon [plural: tricola] is a sentence comprised of three clearly identified parts, which are called *colas*. The colas usually increase in intensity, magnitude, size, or word length. This is called a *tricolon crescens*.

It relates to the *rule of three* in writing which states that things are inherently funnier, more satisfying, or more effective when said in groups of three than in groups of any other number. Therefore tricola are used to draw attention to or make memorable some part of a piece of writing or speech.

Examples:

"I came, I saw, I conquered."

~ Julius Caesar

"I require three things in a man. He must be handsome, ruthless, and stupid."

~ Dorothy Parker

Symbolism:

Symbolism is the practice of using an object or a word to represent an abstract idea.

Example: Extract from: [Seven Philosophical Poems- 1 Ephemeron \(Pg 138\)](#)

"Man, there's a fly in that bottle... He's oblivious to advice, and if he should drift free he still will have learned nothing."

Meaning: In this poem, the fly is a symbolic representation of man, which outlines a particular behaviour in some people which we know as ignorance/arrogance. The fly (man), won't learn anything from anyone if they believe that they are more superior and intelligent thus making him/her oblivious to advice as well as oblivious to their surroundings. Since the fly is being used as a symbol, it also shows how the poet views these types of personalities i.e. annoying. Considering a fly is relatively annoying and somewhat stupid, it seems to be a quiet a proper symbol.



Some visual stimuli

Simile:**Analogy:**

An analogy is the act of comparing two things that are similar in some way.

For example, *'the analogy between the heart and a pump' and 'to draw an analogy between an atom and the solar system'.*

Elegy:

A mournful, melancholy poem most often written as a lament to the dead.

Example: "Casualties of War" by Elaine George

Beneath a blanket of earth
With a pillow made of stone
Her child eternally sleeps
~~~~~  
While at the foot of his bed  
She stands alone  
And weeps! And weeps! And weeps!

**Classicism:**

the following of traditional and long-established theories or styles.

**Deconstruction:**

Deconstruction is a form of literary criticism developed by the French philosopher Jacques Derrida which stated that literary texts (including poems) have no fixed or definitive meaning but, instead, are full of contradictions and inconsistencies and are open to a variety of interpretations. The theory is used to expose deep-seated contradictions in a work by delving below its surface meaning.

**Sarcasm:**

Sarcasm is a form of wit intended to wound and insult that is marked by using sarcastic language. Sarcasm is often a sharply ironic remark using bitter or harsh tone.

**Example:**

'Well, aren't we just a ray of frigging sunshine?'

**Mimesis:**

Mimesis is the imitation of life in art and/ or literature.

### Ballads:

**Definition:** a ballad is a poem that focuses on a specific story. They also generally have a regular rhythm, a regular rhyme scheme, use dialogues and often repeat words and phrases. Ballads are more often than not, thought of as romantic or even tragic.

### Example:

They threw me in the slammer, stripped of my dignity  
I barely got a word in, they gave me the third degree.  
My family was so confused, no idea what was going on  
But I knew I could beat this charge, this simple felony

My lawyer showed up late to court, he looked an awful mess.  
He told me the fastest way to do this was simply to confess.  
The jury already hated me and would surely find "guilty,"  
But I knew I could beat this charge, this simple felony.

The judge he roared and slammed his hammer hard upon the stand.  
He ordered me to plea, and I said "Your honor, lend me a hand,"  
He told me I was being charged with murder, second degree,  
And I hoped I could beat this charge, this simple felony.

### Assonance:

Assonance is the repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds, especially in stressed syllables. Assonance is a rough similarity. using assonance can set the mood of the poem or adjust and add the meaning of a word. Longer vowel sounds can decrease the energy in the poem and make the mood of it seem more serious whilst higher vowel sounds can increase the energy of the poem and make it brighter and happier.

An example is: Poetry is old, ancient, goes back far. It is among the oldest of living things. So old it is that no man knows how and why the first poems came.

In this example, the longer 'o' sounds make the sentence seem old.

### Metaphor:

A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.

### Examples:

"Broken heart" - Your heart is not literally broken into pieces; you just feel hurt and sad.

"Sea of grief" - How and where does one come across a sea that is filled not with water, but with grief?

### Simile:

A figure of speech that draws a comparison between two different things, used to make a description more emphatic or vivid.

### Example:

"Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get."  
Comparing the uncertainty of life to the uncertainty of choosing chocolate from a box.



**Happy as a clam!**

### Enjambment-

In French, enjambment means to 'step over'. In this same sense, enjambment means a sentence or meaning that extends over more than one line.

An easy way to check for enjambment is to simply read a line by itself. Does it still make sense and sound like a complete sentence without the lines around it?

If the line ends at its end, or can be read as a sentence by itself, it is said to be 'end-stopped'.

If the line must be read with another line to form a complete sentence or meaning, it is not 'end stopped' - it is enjambed. (Yes, this is actually a word.)

### Effect-

As enjambment makes you read two lines (or more) together as a sentence, it often creates the impression of a conversation, or a more casual poem. If there were full stops after every sentence, the poem would sound much more rigid, and the lines themselves would seem much less cohesive when juxtaposed to natural human speech.

As the reader feels inclined to read the poem faster to accommodate this flow, enjambment can create a sense of urgency.

### Example-

The first few lines of 'Wasteland' by T.S. Eliot:

*April is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.        -end-stopped  
Winter kept us warm, covering  
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding  
A little life with dried tubers.       -end stopped*

This poem uses enjambment to invoke discomfort in the reader. Or maybe it's just the unpleasant words.

Lines 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 all use enjambment.

And now something from Wordsmith:

*It is a beauteous evening, calm and free,  
the holy time is quiet as a Nun  
breathless with adoration; the broad sun  
is sinking down in its tranquillity.*

Okay, so maybe it isn't as easy as looking for full-stops? Line one in this case can be read by itself, therefore is end-stopped. Line two also seems to be complete, but is expanded upon by line 3 using enjambment. And of course line 3 is enjambling (nor sure if that is a word, this time) with line 4. So here we have (lines 1-4) end-stop, enjambment, enjambment, end-stop.

Oh, and by the by, if both lines in a couplet are end-stopped, they are called 'heroic couplets'.

If enjambment is joining the couplet, it is called an 'open couplet'.

### Personification:

A personification is when physical inanimate objects, notions or animals (non-humans) are given to have human attributes or emotions.

Put simply, giving human qualities to non-human things.

### Examples:

- The fire dances
- Opportunity was knocking at the door

(Opportunity cannot knock and fire cannot dance, personifications are used to convey a certain mood or make things interesting, also to help the reader to relate to what is being said.)



Toys with human qualities (personified toys) are more awesome than normal toys.

### Ode:

Ode is a type of poem

Specifically, a lyrical poem, typically addressed to a particular subject, with lines of varying lengths and complex rhythms.

The word ode comes from the Greek language "oide" or "aoide," both of which are derived from "aeidein" which means "to sing" literally.

### Example:

The year is 1762 and a tale of murder or mystery they boast  
A teenage girl, a drunken parish clerk and even a ghost  
About hordes of aristocrats and wealthy men assembling  
Crowds rivalling Covent Garden Theatres were now descending

### Onomatopoeia:

Onomatopoeia is a literary technique in which a word is formed in imitation of the sound of an object or animal.

Examples of this could be found in the way people describe animal noises; such as meow, woof or moo.

### Romanticism:

Romanticism is a visual arts movement – it included poetry, fiction and music. The fact that it is so diverse makes it harder to define.

Romanticism doesn't relate to romances, it means being a loyal individualist's, believing in the rights of other individuals, and expressing deep, intense, and often uplifting emotions.

Romanticism can be best described as a large net of opposing philosophies, agendas, and point of interest. It's a movement that was about personal expression.

### Epic:

### Stanza:

A fixed number of strict verse lines usually characterized by a common pattern of meter, rhyme, and number of lines, forming a unit of a poem, generally a verse or paragraph.

e.g.

### SONNET 116 (Shakespearean sonnet)

Let me not to the marriage of true minds

Admit impediments. Love is not love

Which alters when it alteration finds,

Or bends with the remover to remove:

O no; it is an ever-fixed mark,

That looks on tempests, and is never shaken;

It is the star to every wandering bark,

Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.

Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks

Within his bending sickle's compass come;

Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,

But bears it out even to the edge of doom.

If this be error and upon me proved,

I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

### Verse & Prose:

### Narrative Voice:

### Feminism:

Movements and views aimed at establishing and equalling political, economic, social rights and improving workplace opportunities for women.

e.g. Groups or individual women protesting differing wages from Man to Women.

